

Reconstruction Women's Fund



2022
annual
report

2022 in Action!

The year behind us remains noted as another showpiece of permanent global and local crises, as well as diverse responses and struggles of activists coming from the feminist and other related progressive movements.

We have decided to level up our creativity this year when it comes to sharing stories from the ground, stories coming from our partner organizations*, hence to encompass the shared experiences in this special report.

Why?

The knowledge that we are absorbing ourselves, through daily communication with the groups, are motivational types of knowledge that should be available to as many people as possible. These are the stories of efficient direct support, solidarity, feminist ethics of care, and brave steps against systemic oppression, these are anticapitalistic roars, alternatives, and inspirations.

Furthermore, at the peak of the crises, it is now important more than ever to know what allies across the country are doing. If the report inspires you to connect or at least identify with some of its parts and people in it – woohoo, another success!

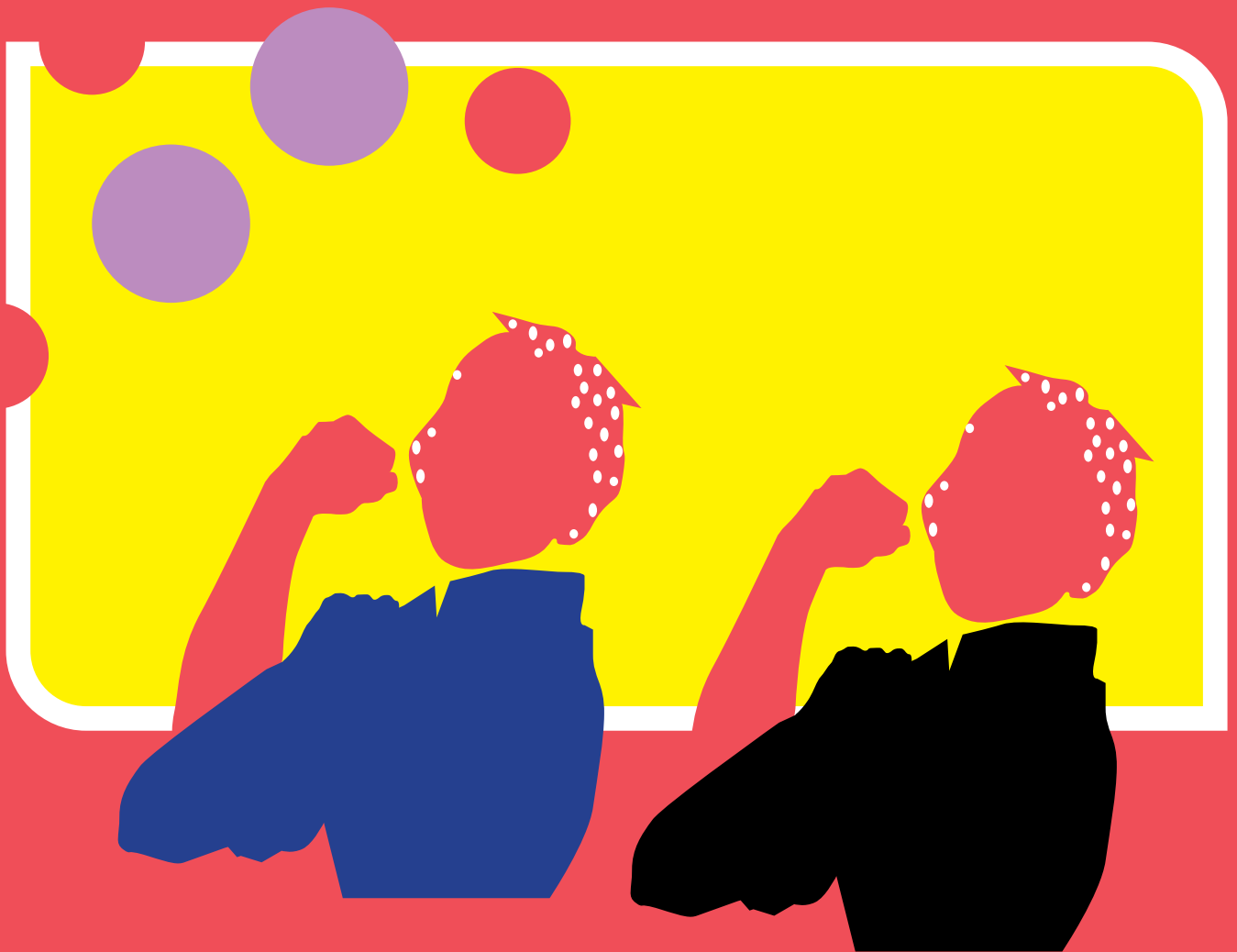
Finally – we are preserving the knowledge together. While progressive knowledge is being erased from the system and surviving at the margins, we try our best to enable the knowledge of actions, achievements, and even problems – to survive. And this is not easy. The daily struggle leaves little to no time for recapitulation, and letting our own knowledge slip through our fingers may lead us to repeat practices that are not necessarily efficient. Let's try not to always start from scratch!

We are proud to present to you the variegated pathways through which our partners have been running, thinking, sharing, and working!

*By Partner Organizations, as you probably know, we imply collectives that we support through our programs. In many ways, including the language, we are trying to eliminate hierarchical relationships and unhealthy power dynamics, so that the organizations that we work are primarily our partners.



Children's Centre Zaječar – I haven't Reported, performance



NUMBERS

(PLEASE, KEEP HOLDING ON!)

Although we are more inclined towards discussion than counting, some numbers are precious to us – for transparency, for the bigger picture of where and how we stand, and where we should grow...

How was the money distributed?

The overall number of grants awarded: 75 (44 123 427 RSD)

**GENERAL SUPPORT:
14 GRANTS**

**AMOUNT AWARDED
26.474.649 RSD**

**GENERAL SUPPORT:
43 GRANTS**

**AMOUNT AWARDED
15.526.775 RSD**

**RAPID RESPONSE
GRANTS: 11 GRANTS**

**AMOUNT AWARDED
1.534.003 RSD**

**STIPENDS
ŽARANA PAPIĆ:
7 STIPENDS**

**AMOUNT AWARDED
858.000 RSD**

What does this mean for the partner organizations?

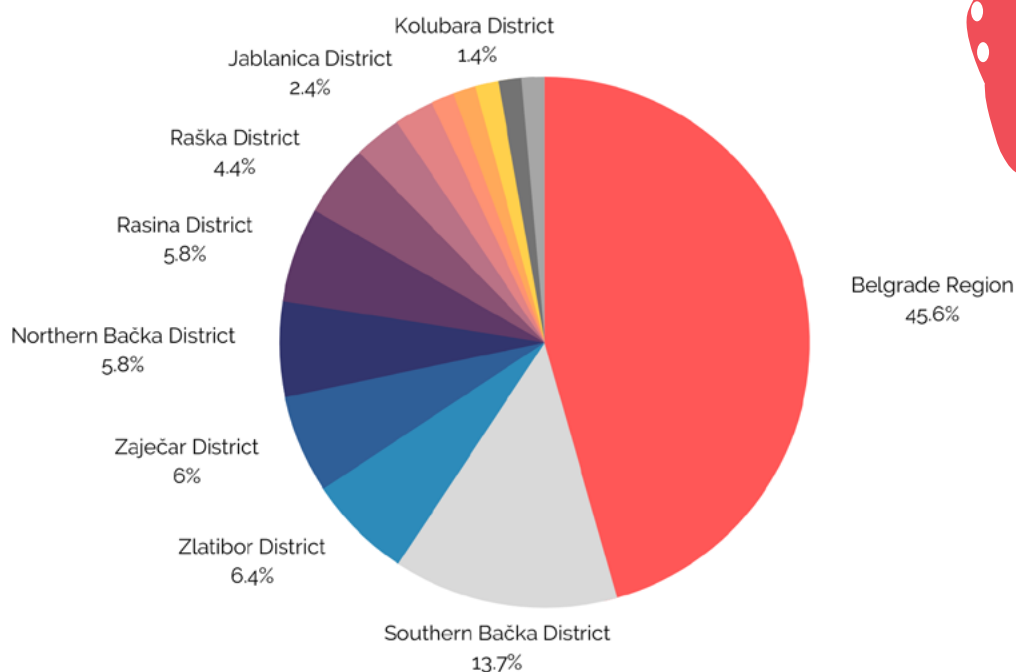
In 2021, we increased, and in 2022, we maintained the budget for our comrades' activities, forewarning the consequences of inflation as much as possible and trying to support their uninterrupted functioning.

What's the map like?

The percentage of partners from Belgrade: 45,6%

The percentage of partners from other places: 54,4%

The percentage of partners by district:



What about other places?

Traditionally, the centers of feminist actions are at the same time the largest geographical centers (with minor exceptions). The support for the decentralization of the movement is our long-term strategy, which is why, whenever we can, we establish partnerships in spaces that are just arising on the feminist map. Besides the partnership with women from Čičevac, Brodarevo, Valjevo, and Aleksinac, we are particularly glad to be a bit more present in the country's east, where it is difficult to find allies for quite a while, due to systemic sabotages of progressive organizations. We are also glad that our partners are quite mobile, so their support reaches Divljane, Dimitrovgrad, Žitkovac – but also the region – Sarajevo, Pula, and Tirana. We keep on searching for brave allies in all the districts, hoping this graph will be more diverse and proportional in the next report!

Registered and non-registered collectives:

The percentage of registered partner organizations: 79,5%

The percentage of non-formal partner organizations: 20,5%

Non-registered collectives?

It has been our political decision for many years to support non-registered collectives, prioritizing their work, content, and articulation compared to their format. We are noticing a mild growth in non-formal/non-registered collectives applying for our grants.

Welcome, new comrades!

The percentage of organizations that we have worked with for the first time: 23,5% Is that a lot or not?

We are satisfied! Again, we are noticing a mild growth in the number of collectives with which we collaborated in 2022 for the first time. This gives us hope for new and diverse initiatives, there are actions in unexpected places, and the new solidarity circles are growing.



Earth and Crafts – “Lala Festival”



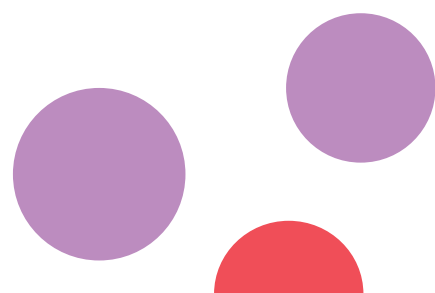
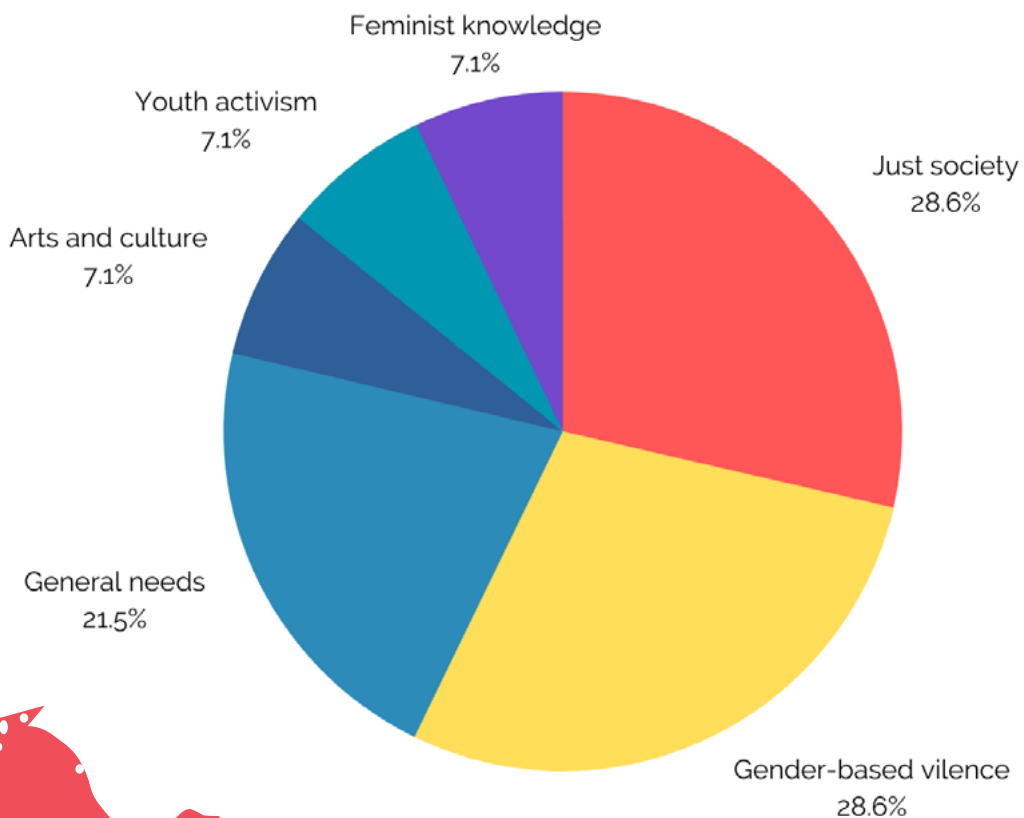
Program by program!

Over the past years, we haven't been making any radical changes regarding our programs, as, for better or for worse, they have demonstrated to be adequate for a diversity of crises that have caught us as a society. The strategic changes are being made within the programs – we introduce new partners into the General Support program when we can, we intensify pre-support for Special Focus applications, we are proactive when it comes to Rapid Response Grants and sometimes we contact collectives before they contact us, and the program of Stipends is now almost entirely funded from individual donations. Let's go step by step!

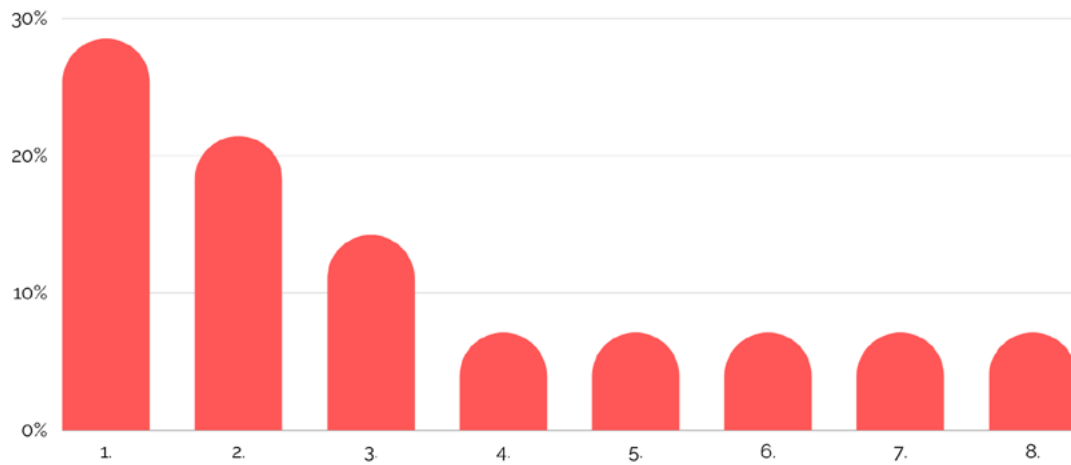
General support

Through this program, we support long-term collaborators with flexible assets for the most diverse needs – from basic operating costs to programmatic costs to collective care needs and bridging the period between grants by other donors.

The dominant subjects among groups supported through this program are as follows:



...While narrow thematic priorities, which also speak more of the approach that our partners take, are right here:



- 1. Psychosocial/ legal support
- 2. General work
- 3. Access to services and care
- 4. Girls' education
- 5. Disseminating feminist knowledge
- 6. Environment
- 7. Labor rights
- 8. Antimilitarism

Yet, about the specifics of the groups' work, you'll learn the best from the groups themselves, so keep on scrolling!



General support program:

Experiences, achievements, problems, hopes...

In one month, we have managed to fundraise enough money for 20 stipends for Super Girls, as well as to provide non-material support for the last year's stipendists through an educational and recreational Camp. We have successfully organized another Feminist Spring School in Pristina and Vrnjacka Banja in collaboration with Artpolis, we have organized a camp for stipendists called „Super Girls' Camp”, psychological support workshops, online workshops of digital safety, and other planned activities.

– Alternative Girls' Centre, Kruševac

During the module „Always about the consequences, never about the causes?! – Feminism and the Left – About gender-based violence”, we were obliged to change the initially announced location due to threats that we have received through social media by the right-wing.

– Centre for Women's Studies, Belgrade

Throughout the year, we have organized 54.218,5 hours of Personal Assistance service for 17 people with disabilities, 14 of them being from Novi Sad, 13 of them women and 4 men, with 4 women users being younger than 30 and 4 older than 60. – Centre Living Upright, Novi Sad

To dispute and combat the anti-gender and anti-feminist discourse which is widespread in society and media, we have worked on creating narratives regarding the importance of the history of feminist action and the importance of advancing women's rights for the wellbeing of society overall. To achieve this, we kept on using every opportunity to advocate and promote feminist politics in the media and entice other women to advocate for women's rights in public and media space but also in local and micro-communities. – BeFem, Belgrade

During the reporting period, we have made a short documentary called „I Am”, to invite, encourage and motivate Roma women and men to declare their Roma nationality during the population census in 2022 – Roma Women and Children's Centre Daje, Belgrade

As a reminder, the internet sub-page of the Regional Network of Women Journalists is devoted to the subject of sexual violence and it is made for journalists who read and understand the regional language (former Yugoslav countries) and students of journalism. (...) In almost all countries, during 2022, the work of women journalists was made more difficult due to the pressure of the current governments. To some degree, members from Slovenia report a slightly better situation, after the positive outcomes of the last elections. In general, this condition affects the ability of women journalists to open up about the subject of sexual violence, as it is not a priority for media organizations or editors. Because of that, this was another year when following the subject of sexual violence hasn't achieved either continuity or growth, in the conditions and year when women's activists' initiatives continue regional networking and the year of reporting and judicial processing of cases in which the accused sides are also prominent people. . – **Incest Trauma Centre, Belgrade**

As experts in the field of protecting women with disabilities from discrimination and gender-based violence, the representatives of OUT OIF THE CIRCLE VOJVODINA took part in working groups for making strategic documents (Local action plan for preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence in Novi Sad City for 2023 – 2025; Province program of protecting women from domestic and partner violence and other types of gender-based violence for 2022-2026) and in the process of monitoring of CEDAW recommendations (especially recommendation no. 44, Removing multiple and intertwined types of discrimination experienced by vulnerable groups of women, with enabling their economic empowerment) and we have actively advocated for embedding the perspectives of women with disabilities into these strategic documents and report
– **Out of the Circle – Vojvodina, Novi Sad**

Luckily, this year we also had a member able to regularly provide peer support within the hospital, as some prohibitions of entrance by the „third parties” were still active. But our goal is to always hold peer support with two team members because it is optimal for the work quality. People on duty are now present throughout the entire year, except on New Year's Eve, Christmas, and Easter, during those holidays, and for two weeks during the summer.
– **Jefimija Breast Cancer Centre, Užice**

Earth architecture became an important subject, especially since the beginning of the pandemic. People have become much, much more aware of it. During the online course held by Dragana, which typically has 10-15 participants, in 2022, there were 60 of them, so the change is incredible. Also, some of the trainees earlier supported (from Niš and Vranje) have self-organized and formed a collective „Mudology”, which promotes earth architecture in Southern Serbia, which we are particularly glad about.
– **Earth and Crafts, Mošorin**

The knowledge of youth, students in final years of vocational school with which we have worked is improved, and secondly, their peers are more informed, as well as a part of the teaching staff. We have established good cooperation with schools where we held workshops. Some of them will support us in the process of advocacy planned for the upcoming period. – **ROZA Association for Women's Labor Rights, Zrenjanin**





Jefimija Breast Cancer Centre –
Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign

*After the last three years of the pandemic, challenging for all of the community, this year's festival was marked by the audience's return to the cinemas and having side programs at their full capacity. Based on the number of sold and gifted tickets, the overall number of visitors to the 18th edition of Free Zone was 20.000 visitors, which is a 40% higher number compared to the last pandemic year. – **Free Zone, Belgrade***

What we see as problematic is that even after 7 years of ratifying the Convention (in 2014), Serbia still doesn't have a defined strategy for combating gender-based violence nor it dedicates enough money for implementing the programs of protection and support that would be conducted on a long-term basis rather than organized as projects.

– SOS Women's Centre, Novi Sad

When we visit migrants' centers, sometimes we have to write to the Comesarriat for migrants and they always approve it, sometimes we go to some of them on our own. Women residing in migrant centers do not want to speak about their experience and their lives in migrant centers because they are afraid of the people working there.

– SOS Vlasotince

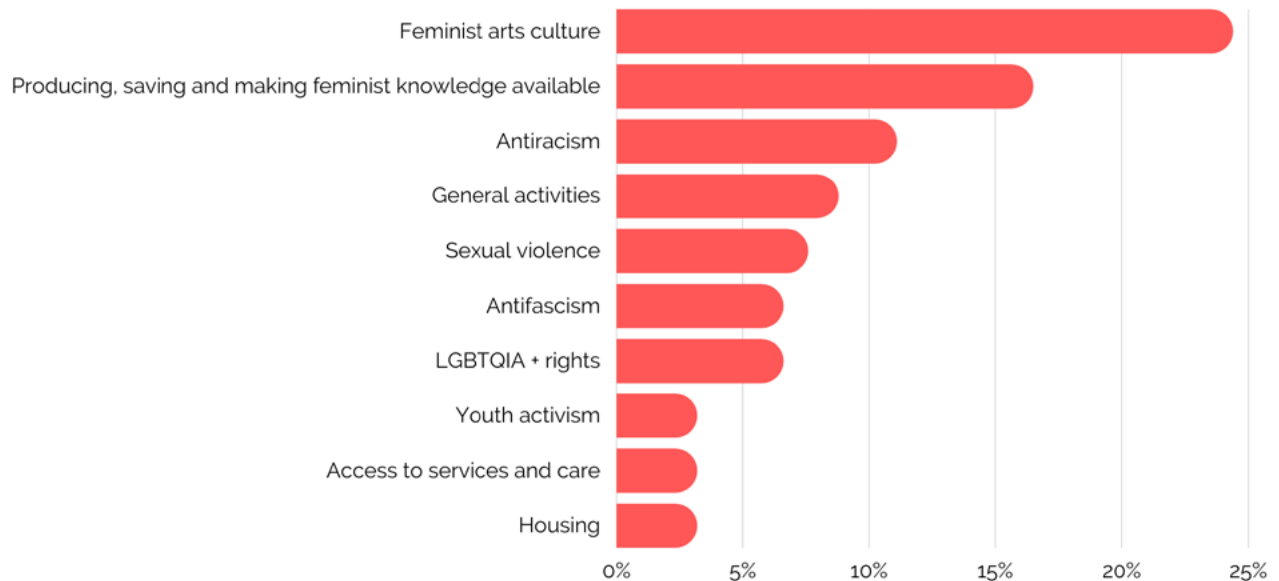


On the ground: the process of verifying victims of the war crime of rape

*- Women who were raped started applying. It is difficult to persuade women to apply. It seems that this verification process makes women not apply. They have to go to one of the four verified organizations: Centre for Rehabilitation against Torture, Medica Djakovo, Medica Kosovo, and Centre for supporting women. One is in Priština, the other one is in Glogovac, where the war was most intense, and two are in Djakovica, covering this Metohija part where the war was fierce. Women psychologists work with women, take the data, and make reports. These organizations apply to the Commission. And a woman can also go to the Commission alone. Women are facing degrading treatment within the Commission. The Commission sticks to the stance that it is an expert administrative entity. When women receive reparations, which is, in fact, social welfare, women are coded, they have no names. – **Women in Black, Belgrade***

Through the program of Special Focus, we support organizations that, through a feminist prism, address nationalism, militarism, racism, fascism, as well as other related problems, as they refer to the past, appreciate the present, and contribute to a hopefully brighter future. Thanks to an open, non-limiting type of open call, through this program we had the pleasure to collaborate with collectives that conduct contextual interventions and rebel against the dark parts of the daily lives through quite different ways.

Our partner organizations mainly start from the stance that no social issue emerges on its own and doesn't remain lonely. Yet, for a better understanding what are the primary and preferred ways of the struggle, we started taking closer looks at what is dominant in partners' work. What they have in common is the base of work rooted in feminist principles, and these are the more specific thematic priorities within the 45 supported activities in 2022.



Feminist Culture and Arts

We still see artists as strategically important partners and we will for a long time, as artists we collaborate with have thundering expressions, imagination questioning the reality, and strong political messages, supported by antinationalism, antimilitarism, and antiracism.

This year, we have supported **ACC „Hero Maričić“ from Kraljevo** to create a film called „**Kitchens, wars**“, a documentary capturing fragments of lives lived by women residents of a Roma settlement at the Aerodromska Street, also in Kraljevo, the daily lives of women different in age and partner relationships, including those who defeated all the kitchen stereotypes. Get ready, the book complementing the film is coming soon! More documentary materials this year came from the association **Free Media from Novi Pazar**, thematizing the memory of Sandžak women regarding the 1990s wars – a note that has been under the radar for quite a long time.

Theatre lives as well, through ongoing subjects or reactualization of timeless subjects. Theatre actions **The Most Difficult Part (ApsArt)** and **I Haven't Reported (Children's Centre Zaječar)** face the audience with sexual violence – the first one in the context of professional theatrical spaces and workplaces in general, and the other one in the context of the #Ihaven'tReported wave, through which women across the region share their experiences. The second is performed by girls, and adolescents, and given the regional traits of what inspired them to create the performance, they have also reached the regional stages – in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Kosovo, alongside Serbia. The invitations for new performances keep on coming, so you might expect them soon in your place!

We have also supported further search for stages, albeit in Serbia (Leskovac, Zrenjanin, Smederevo, and Kragujevac) where the performance **Marija Ručara**

by **Hleb Theatre from Belgrade** will walk briefly, draw the parallels in workers' positions a century ago and today, and then leave the audience in silence and questioning. While Hleb Theatre acts for decades, the young authors' team of **LED Art from Novi Sad** is only beginning to promise social-theatrical questionings, and in 2022 they did it through the performance **On the Inner Sea**, thematizing (anti)fascism through time.

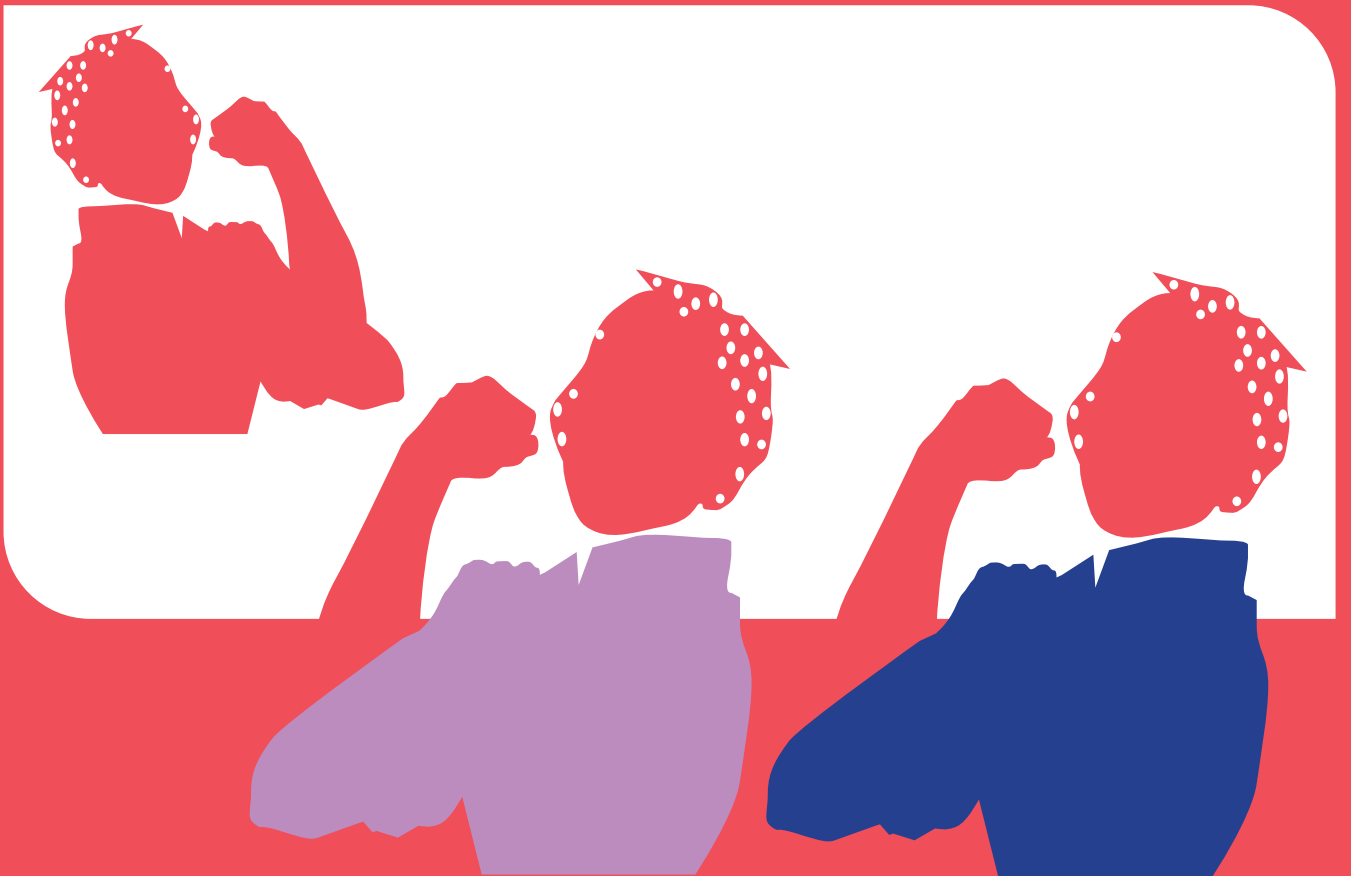
Outside the classical theatre, we have supported the non-formal collective **exmov /exploring movement /** in recontextualizing the life and work of Maga Magazinović through a project called **Free Flight**. A performance, an exhibition, a transmedia project, it is a bit of everything, but above all, it is a complex observation of a complex figure and, in many ways, a lighthouse. As we see the streets as an important piece of struggles, we have also supported the collective **Speakers in Colors** to redecorate their hometown **Obrenovac**, with murals remembering women partisans.

We have also supported two quite different, equally interesting exhibitions. **Articulations** by the collective **Fine arts center from Pančevo** traveled to Subotica where they made a wider conceptualization of the phenomenon of the term *affair*. **Cultural Front from Belgrade** revived the deeply intimate emotions and social contextualization of the subject of suicide.

Finally, we haven't shied away from supporting artists' organizing and struggling for labor rights, hence we supported **ULUS** in conceptualizing new models of organizing and work. And, at the end of the day, we don't shy away from supporting criticism either, especially the neglected literary criticism focused on equally neglected contemporary authors from the region. That's how the project **KundK** by **Workers' Commune Links** remains one of the longest-lasting cooperations we have.



ApsArt – “The Most Difficult Role” project visual



Production, preservation, and access to knowledge

2022 was marked by the attacks on knowledge regarding sexuality and gender, yet again leaving the upcoming generations without systemically available lessons key to their development. On the other hand, there is repatriarchalization, renationalization, and retraditionalization of the educational system. There is no excuse not to support any meaningful speck of progressive knowledge.

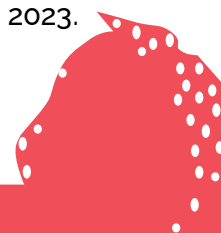
In 2022, the year of elections, **the Novi Sad School of Journalism** has provided us with direct and timely systematized knowledge of current political narratives accentuating **nationalism, xenophobia, militarism, and misogyny** in political campaigns. **TALAS – TIGV collective from Belgrade** focused on differently practical and more optimistic knowledge, mapping friendly public spaces for trans, intersex, and gender-variant people. Some knowledge is alive outside of the books, they shine through practices of protesting and handing knowledge from person to person, and that's how **The Street Drummers** held workshops for transmitting the accumulated knowledge and forming a new crew of drummers. The knowledge was primarily applied during the **Women's March**, which we have also gladly supported through Special Focus.

There were also many alternative educational initiatives, workshops, and generational and/or peer knowledge transmission – amazingly important for maintaining the continuity of activist struggles. **Okular from Čičevac** organized a little feminist school, enticing the attendees to further engagement either within Okular or through independent actions. **Centre for Politics of Emancipation from Belgrade** gathered an international circle of educators and attendees for conversations regarding cross paths of peace and economic justice,

and practical implications regarding organizing around these subjects. A newly emerged collective from **Kraljevo, Femina Educa**, went among school desks and brought up feminist questions through arts. The collective keeps on working in village schools and spreads its activities to artistic production with educational dimensions. **Women's Studies and Research, the branch in Subotica**, held not one but two cycles of women's studies courses (in hybrid mode – in-person and online), bridging 25 years since the same type of studies were organized in this city. During this higher education educational program, particular attention was given to the local notable women from Subotica and places from which the attendees came, while the political accent was on women's antifascist action.

We were gladdened by the collaborations on preserving important knowledge from the past – **Consultations for Lesbians from Belgrade** turned to document the importance of the work of their predecessors, key activists of the lesbian movement in our region. The non-formal collective **Bečkerek 1991** has been archiving and analyzing now already marginalized and forgotten independent media outlet **Bečkerek**, which was one of the rare anti-war orientated outlets working at the beginning of the war.

Genero – Journal of Feminist Theory and Cultural Studies marked its 20th anniversary in 2022 with a special issue devoted to violence against women. As strategically important in the constellation of the struggle against the marginalization of feminist knowledge, **Genero** is joining our circle of General Support in 2023.



Antinationalism, antimilitarism, antiracism, antifascism

As we have mentioned, these values are written directly and indirectly into the work of our comrades, they fuel their actions, and you will find them sometimes in pieces of their work and sometimes at its very center.

Among those who centralize these subjects, we would first highlight an echo of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. In collaboration with **Women in Black**, we have supported a collective of refugees and activists from Russia, who led the project **Voices of Disobedience**, analyzing the brutality of the Kremlin's regime, mythologized image of Russia, and primarily feminist anti-war movement in Russia.

Direct antifascist education was also conducted by the web portal **Magločistač** from **Subotica**, based on the book by **dr Margareta Bašaragin**, „**Antifascists of Subotica**“. The videos and texts based on the book have reached a wider and younger audience in a more receptive way, also enticing many of them to engage in further exploration of local feminist antifascist history. It is particularly valuable that these materials have reached the school children as well.

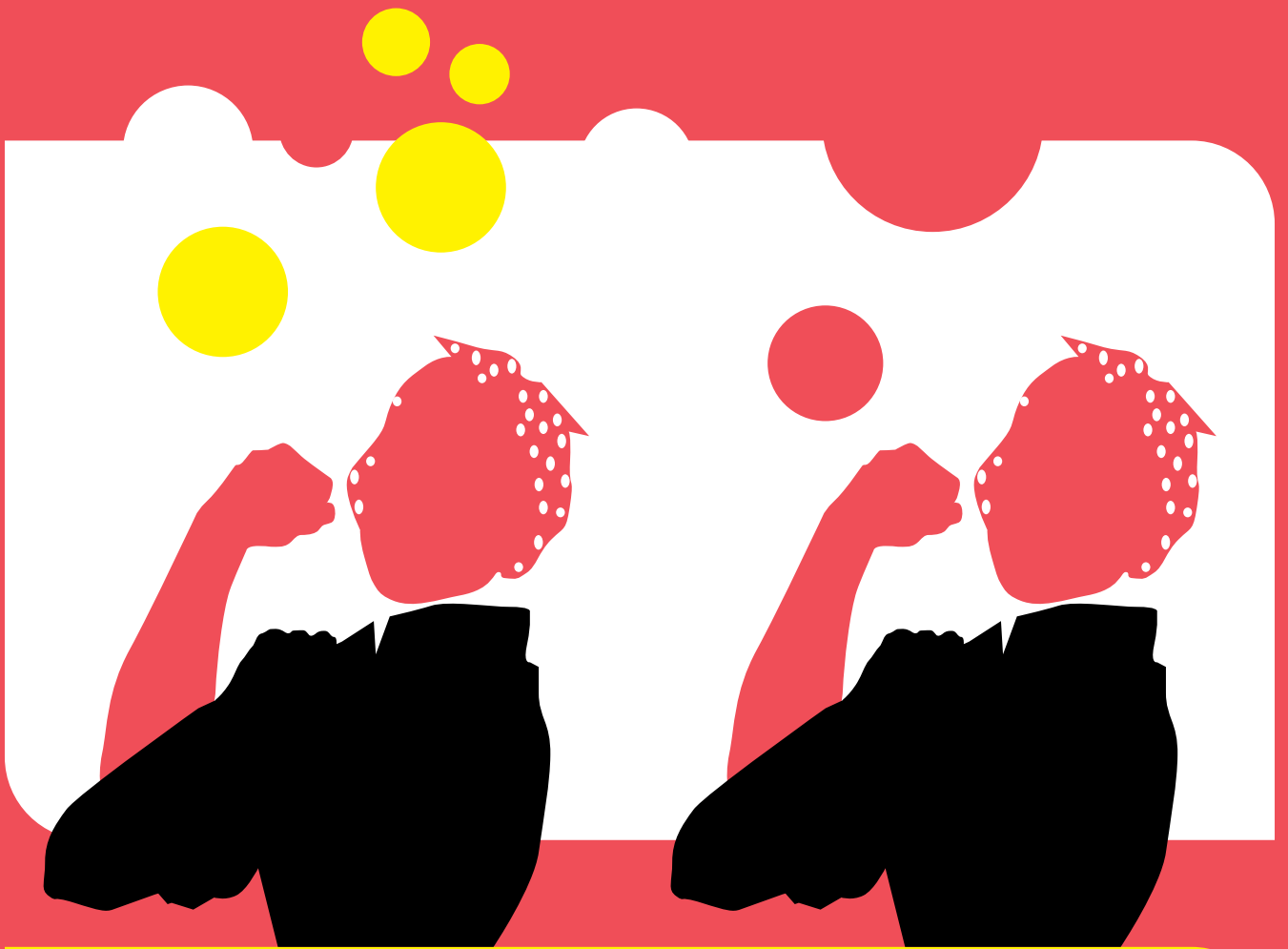
The volunteering center of Vojvodina has hosted numerous guests for their podcast **War and Peace**, focusing on current militarism, nationalism, and other war fuel, as much as on recent local war history.

Antiracist activities are also woven into many actions supported through Special focus. We can highlight the organization **Bibija**, whose general work we have supported, also contributing to their advocacy for a better position of Roma women, which included collaboration with institutions, as well as **Roma Association Nada** from **Aleksinac**, which used this year to continue the practice of educating Roma children about forced/child marriages, finalizing the work with a whole generation and equipping it with needed knowledge so the trainees could keep on educating their peers and younger girls.

... And that's just a piece of the puzzle!

There were also activities for struggling for women's labor rights, activities supporting the LGBTQIA+ community, and direct support for women with disabilities... **Read about some of the supported activities on our website in the **Focus on Focus** section!**

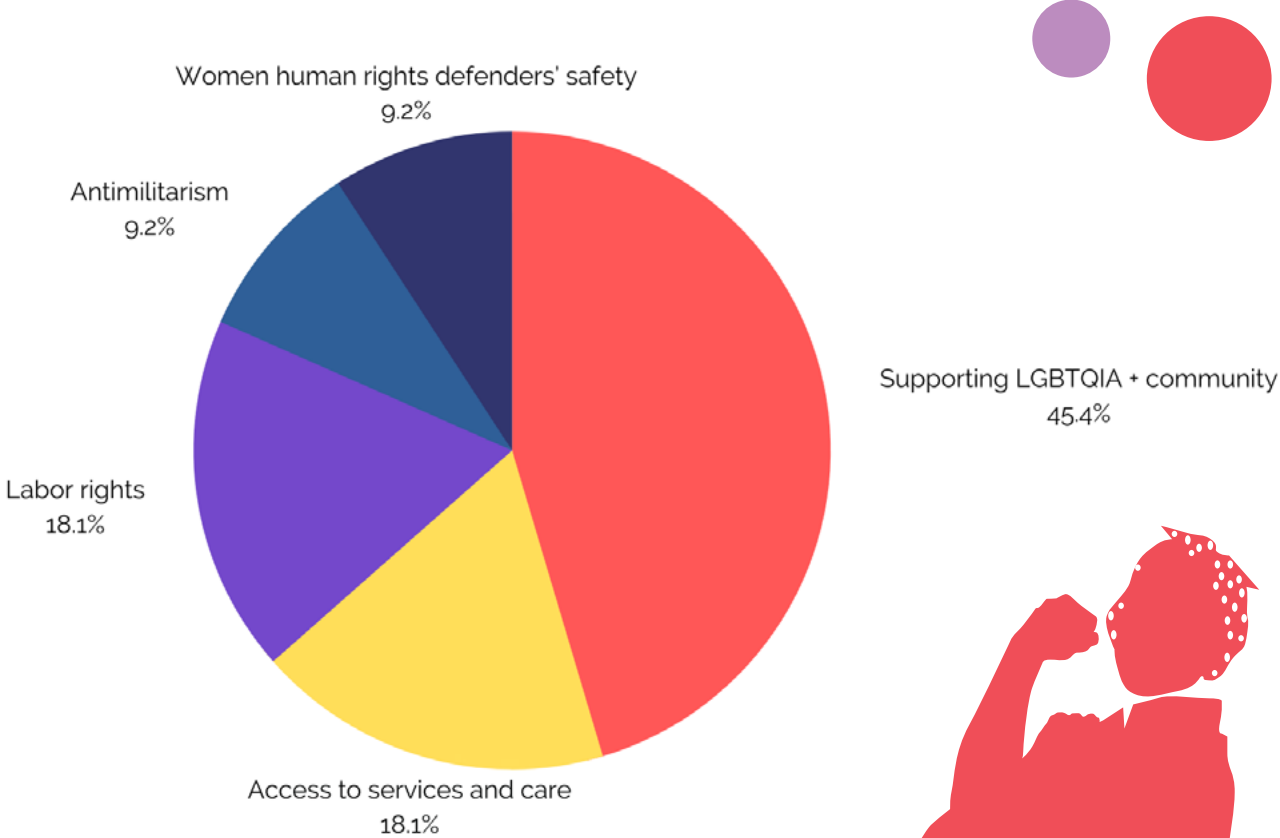




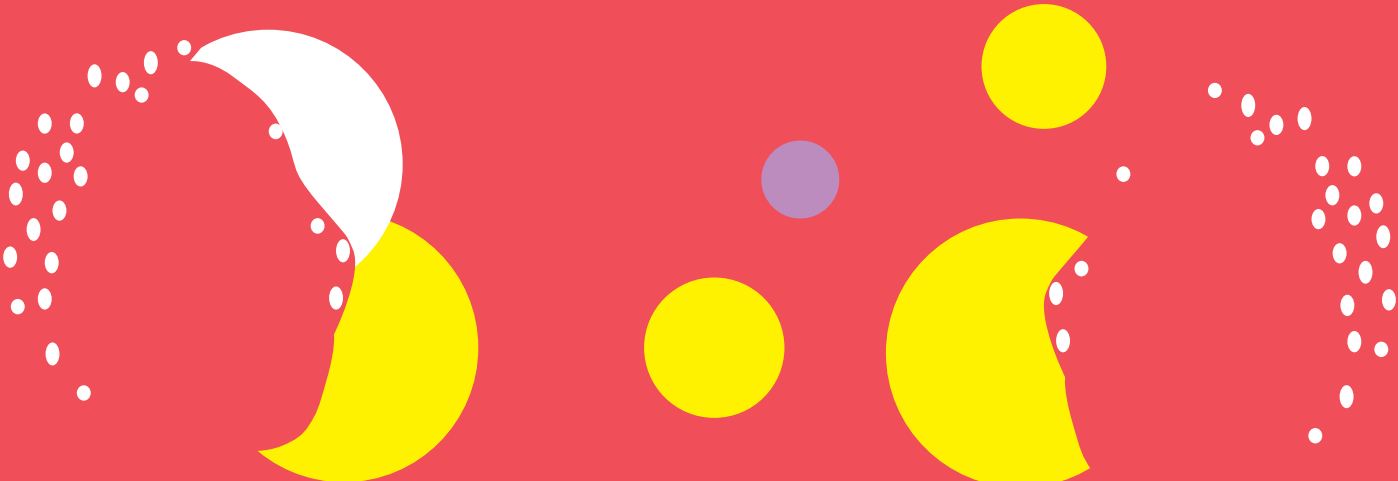
Women in Black – Women in Black Network Gathering

Rapid response grants

When there's a fuss, when the activists and collectives experience human rights violations, dangers, threats, and unpredicted circumstances that affect the key aspects of their work – we don't panic. We're here with the Rapid Response Grants program.



Not surprisingly, support for the LGBTQIA+ community was pretty prominent this year, given the troubles, pressures, and dangers faced by the community, especially its most marginalized parts, right before the Europride event. Carefully overwatching the situation, media full of negative narratives against the community, but also following the self-identified needs of the community, this time we were not waiting for the groups to contact us but we acted proactively and reminded them of the option of Rapid Response Grants, being at their



The graphic features a vibrant red background adorned with various colored circles in white, purple, and yellow. A white silhouette of a raised fist is positioned on the right side. At the bottom, a white speech bubble contains text. The title 'Stipends "Žarana Papić"' is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font on the left side.

Stipends "Žarana Papić"

Continually supporting girls and women in obtaining and sharing knowledge, especially in the fields strengthening their activist academic feminist activities, in the past few years we are proud not to be alone in that type of support – we rely upon individual donors who recognize the importance of progressive education and mainly with their contributions, independently from big foundations, we are continuing this type of support.

Like every year, we have awarded stipends for Master Gender Studies at the Faculty of Political Science of the University of Belgrade, this time to three stipendists. One stipend was awarded for Ph.D. studies in the field of literature with a focus on women's literature of post-Yugoslav space. One stipend has been awarded for the Master Studies at the University of Arts, while the remaining two stipends were awarded for psychotherapy educational programs.

Kind reminder – you can also support women's education until it is systemically available to everyone – follow our campaigns and join according to your possibilities!

What's next?

We are improving the work of the fund, simultaneously improving the support for our partners.

We are particularly happy that our groups are showing more initiatives for archiving their work, contributing to the continuity of the movement's work and education of new generations of activists.

We are beyond happy to support such actions!
We keep on traveling across Serbia to meet collaborators and search for new allies.

We insist on greater inclusion of grassroots groups into international circles, in the spirit of international feminist solidarity, but also leveling the power dynamics and presence of plural voices, especially those affected by donors' support, and are historically neglected around negotiating and advocacy tables.

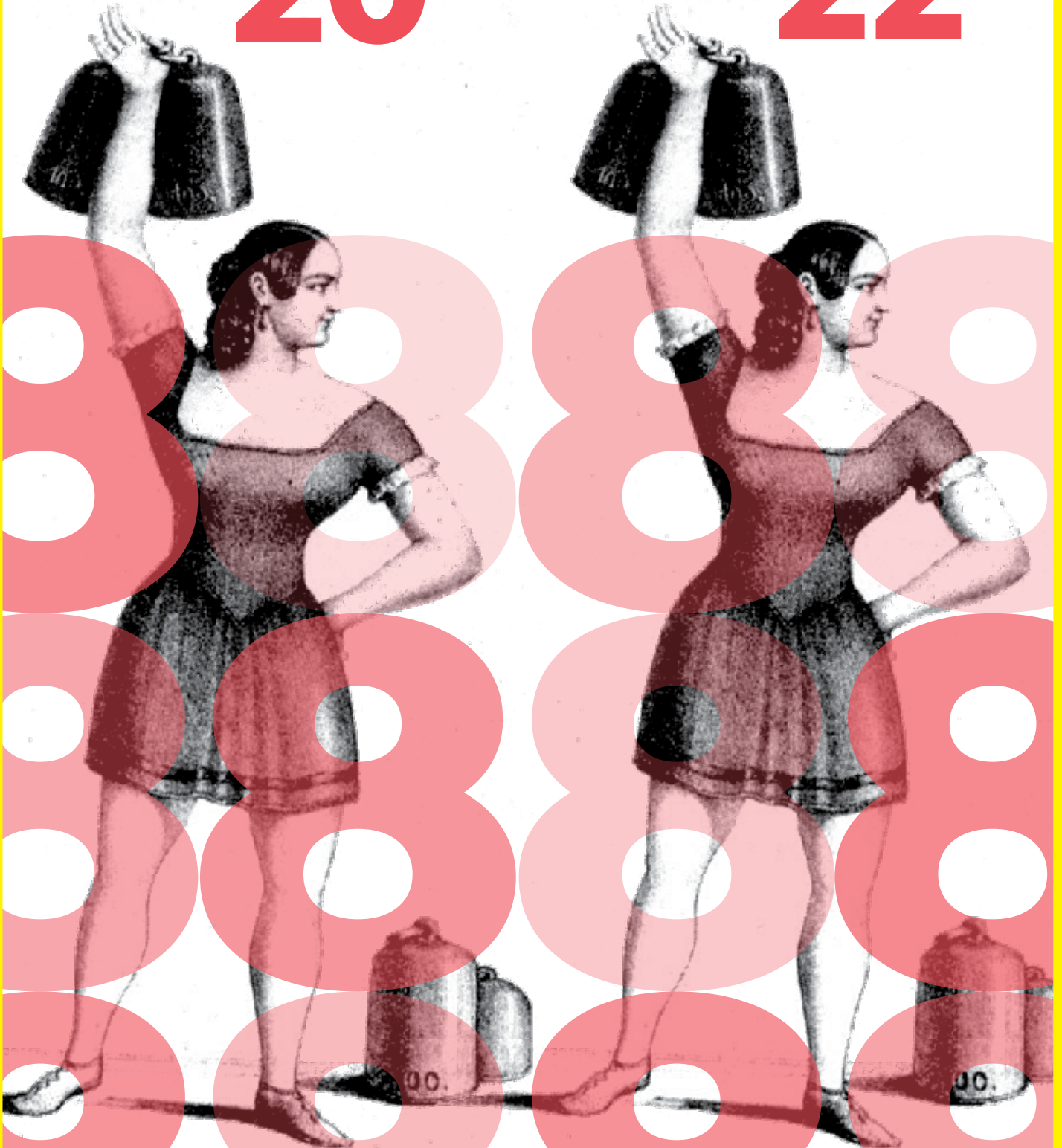
We remain sensitive to the groups' needs and adjust our support accordingly. We track the crises such as the growth of anti-gender movements and try to be proactive in collaborating with partners.
Aware of the intense work of our partners, we still encourage them to also stop so we could also celebrate together what's been done – despite the many pending things to do, there are also many achievements worthy of celebrations!



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Stay tuned!



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